

Statement of Chairman Ann Brown
The Honorable Edward Markey Press Conference
Injuries and Deaths on Fixed-Site Amusement Park Rides
April 13, 2000

Thank you Congressman Markey for that kind introduction.

The most tragic news the Commission receives is the death of a consumer, especially a child -- particularly when that death or injury could have been avoided.

We all know roller coasters, and other amusement park rides, are fun, fast and thrilling. They are supposed to create the *illusion* of danger, without putting riders at risk. People *believe* that.

But the increased number of deaths and injuries tell a different story.

Last year, six people died on these rides -- the most in any single year in more than a decade.

I am very concerned with the climbing numbers of emergency room-treated injuries for fixed-site amusement park rides.

CPSC only has the authority to deal with mobile amusement rides, not fixed-site rides. CPSC can obtain a corrective action from a manufacturer, distributor or ride operator if a *mobile* ride presents a significant hazard. In fact, last year, CPSC and Reverchon Industries announced the recall of the Himalaya ride that caused two deaths and three injuries.

But the problem remains...there is no Federal oversight over fixed-site rides.

Some would prefer that we leave fixed amusement rides to the states. But 11 states have no inspection laws, 13 states have no laws requiring operators to report injuries, and the others have a patchwork of inconsistent regulations.

If Congress sees fit to give CPSC jurisdiction to deal with the safety of fixed site amusement parks, I would welcome it.

Thank you.